

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims provided below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

13. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of ~~a cardiac pathology~~ heart failure in a mammal which comprises administering a cortisol antagonist to said mammal in an amount effective to treat the ~~cardiac pathology~~ heart failure, with the proviso that said cortisol antagonist is not clonidine.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the ~~cardiac pathology~~ heart failure is selected from the group consisting of congestive heart failure, diastolic heart failure, low-output heart failure, right-sided heart failure, cardiac hypertrophy, and cardiac fibrosis.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the cortisol antagonist is an inhibitor of cortisol synthesis.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the inhibitor of cortisol synthesis is ketoconazole or a derivative thereof.
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the cortisol synthesis inhibitor is a Cis-2S,4R and/or Cis-2R, 4S isomer of ketoconazole.
18. (Currently amended) A composition for daily administration to a mammalian subject comprising:  
  
    ~~a cortisol antagonist~~ ketoconazole or a derivative thereof, and  
  
    a second drug,  
  
    as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of heart failure or in improving cardiac function and reducing exercise intolerance.

19. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of one or more symptoms associated with heart failure selected from the group comprising edema of lower limbs, pulmonary edema, dyspnea, liver enlargement, increased heart rate, reduced stroke volume, shortness of breath and exercise intolerance which comprises administering ~~of the composition of claim 18,~~ in a daily dose, a cortisol antagonist to a mammalian subject, with the proviso that said cortisol antagonist is not clonidine.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the symptom is pulmonary edema.
21. (Currently amended) ~~The composition method of claim 18~~ 19 wherein the daily dose of the cortisol antagonist administered to a the subject being treated is ~~100-200~~ 100-1,200 mg.
22. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the daily dose of the cortisol antagonist administered to the subject being treated is 200-800 mg.
23. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the daily dose of the cortisol antagonist administered to the subject being treated is 300-600 mg.
24. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the daily dose of cortisol antagonist being administered to the subject being treated is 100-1200 mg.
25. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the daily dose of cortisol antagonist being administered to the subject being treated is 200-800 mg.
26. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the daily dose of cortisol antagonist being administered to the subject being treated is 300-600 mg.